

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A graphical user interface (GUI), comprising:
2 at least one option area for displaying to a user functions which may be
3 invoked by the user by operating an input device to the GUI; and
4 an instrumentality operable to be activated by the user when the user manipulates
5 the input device for displaying at the user's command in a separate menu the functions
6 that are displayable to the user in the at least one option area.
- 1 2. The GUI recited in claim 1, wherein the instrumentality comprises a
2 sequence of keystrokes.
- 1 3. The GUI recited in claim 1, wherein the instrumentality comprises an
2 icon.
- 1 4. The GUI recited in claims 2 or 3, further comprising a separate menu
2 which is activated by the user invoking the instrumentality and which lists options that
3 are hidden from the user's view in the option area.
- 1 5. The GUI recited in claim 1 wherein the GUI comprises a plurality of
2 options areas.
- 1 6. The GUI recited in claim 6, wherein each of the option areas in the
2 plurality of options areas comprises a separate color.
- 1 7. A method of providing to a user of a graphical user interface (GUI) option
2 functions for software that is associated with the GUI, comprising the steps of:
3 providing at least one option area for displaying to a user functions which
4 may be invoked by the user by operating an input device to the GUI; and
5 providing an instrumentality operable to be activated by the user when the
6 user manipulates the input device for displaying at the user's command in a separate
7 menu the functions that are displayable to the user in the at least one option area.
- 1 8. The method recited in claim 7, wherein the instrumentality comprises a
2 sequence of keystrokes.
- 1 9. The method recited in claim 7, wherein the instrumentality comprises an
2 icon.

1 10. The method recited in claims 8 or 9, wherein the second providing step
2 further comprises the step of creating a separate menu which is activated by the user
3 invoking the instrumentality and which lists options that are hidden from the user's view
4 in the option area.

1 11. The method recited in claim 7 wherein the first providing step comprises
2 providing to the user a plurality of options areas.

1 12. The method recited in claim 11, wherein each of the option areas in the
2 plurality of options areas comprises a separate color.